

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus operative for gathering yard refuse from a ground surface, said apparatus comprising:

a gathering device having a frame and a motor, said frame supporting an elongated rotor having a longitudinal axis, said elongated rotor being disposed with a row of spaced apart tines extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, said elongated rotor driven by said motor, said tines operative to gather yard refuse from the ground surface when rotating and being moved over the ground surface;

a pair of wheels operative to support said frame on the ground surface;

a hitch mounted to a front portion of the frame;

an adjustment mechanism operatively mounted to each of said pair of wheels adjacent opposing ends of said elongated rotor to adjust the position of the elongated rotor with respect to the ground surface;

a basket for holding the yard refuse collected from the ground surface pivotally attached to the gathering device, said basket having a top and a bottom, said basket having at least one wheel supporting said basket on the ground surface; and

at least one link member, said at least one link member having one end pivotally mounted to said basket and an opposite end pivotally mounted to said frame, said at least one link member permitting the basket to be rotated upwardly to empty the basket.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the gathering device further comprises a shield for preventing the collected yard refuse from being ejected out from said gathering device.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tines include distal ends that are bent outwardly toward a direction of rotation of the elongated rotor.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the basket is a hinged basket adapted to be selectably attachable to the gathering device, and supported by second pair of wheels.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tines have a diameter of $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and a length of 5-9 inches.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the gathering device is further operative for thatching a lawn.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated rotor is 36-108 inches in length.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated rotor is selectably attachable to the gathering device.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted to be towed by a vehicle and operative for gathering yard refuse from a ground surface, said apparatus comprising:

a gathering device having a frame that supports an elongated rotor and a motor in communication with said elongated rotor, said elongated rotor having a row of spaced apart tines and mounted to said frame to be rotatably driven by said motor, said tines operative to gather yard refuse from the ground surface when rotating and being towed over the ground surface;

a hitch mounted to a front portion of the frame;

a pair of wheels operative to support said frame on the ground surface;

an adjustment mechanism operatively mounted to each of said pair of wheels adjacent opposing ends of said elongated rotor to adjust the position of the elongated rotor with respect to the ground surface; and

a basket for holding the yard refuse collected from the ground surface pivotally attached to the gathering device.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the gathering device further comprises a shield for preventing the collected yard refuse from being ejected out from said gathering device.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the tines include distal ends that are bent outwardly toward a direction of rotation of the rotor.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the basket is a hinged basket adapted to be selectably attachable to the gathering device, and supported by a second pair of wheels.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the elongated rotor is selectably attachable to the gathering device.

Claims 14. – 20. (Cancelled)